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Your essential daily news | MONDAY, JULY 4, 2016

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BURNS BOG BURNS

Provincial wildfire fighters were called in to help as a large fire broke out in Burns Bog

metroNEWS

COURTESY ANGELA FRIDAY PHOTOGRAPHY

Housing boom causes furniture sales to spike

RETAIL

Prices have gone up by 43 per cent since January 2014

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver furniture retailers are celebrating a dramatic sales upturn in recent years and some say it's partly thanks to an increase in home prices and sales.

Retail furniture sales in Vancouver have gone up by 43 per cent since January 2014 — a trend linked to a similar spike in the region's housing prices, according to a recent Bank of Montreal report.

"There was a very notable ramping up of furniture store sales in the last year that seems to correlate with the ramping up of house prices," said Sal Guatieri, director and senior economist at BMO's economic research department.

That connection isn't lost among furniture-store owners and developers. BoConcept, a Danish furniture chain, hosted a developer's VIP presentation event last Thursday. People who buy into the multi-family building, developed by Mondevo, will receive 40 per cent off furniture packages from the store.

This type of partnership benefits everyone in the home-buying process, said BoConcept's store manager, Virgile Machenaud.

"In a way we are all part of the process new homebuyers will go through."

About half of the store's business comes from new homebuyers and the store has seen 25 per cent jump in sales this past year, said Machenaud.

Even local retailers have benefitted from the hot housing market where developers are scrambling to build more condos. Developers are building a record-number of condos in Canada's urban centres, according to a May 2016 RBC report.

Sales at Vancouver-based Briers Home Furnishings have gone up by about 35 per cent compared to previous years, said David Issar, who founded the company with his wife, interior designer Cherie Schuman, 20 years ago.

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Iraq suffers deadliest terror attack in a year. **World**

Young adults, 20 to 24 years old, have one of the highest drowning rates among Canadians, with 46 deaths in 2015 according to that year's Canadian Drowning Report. CHELSEA ALTICE/METRO FILE

Immigrants lag in swim skills

WATER SAFETY

Language and cultural norms need not be a barrier: Experts

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

Immigrant tweens are more at risk of drowning, as nearly one in five can't swim — yet the vast majority of them participate in water activities, says the Lifesaving Society.

According to a recent report from the Lifesaving Society, 17 per cent of immigrant youth aged 11 to 14 don't know how to swim, compared to only three per cent of their Canadian-born counterparts.

That statistic doesn't surprise one Vancouver lifeguard.

"We very seldom have people who cannot speak English in our classes. Once in a while we do come across that barrier," said Anson Siu, aquatic leader at Killarney Community Centre.

Young adults, 20 to 24 years old, have one of the highest drowning rates among Canadians, with 46 deaths in 2015 according to that year's Canadian Drowning Report.

"If all school-aged children can learn basic swimming survival skills, we believe we can really reduce the number of drownings," said Barbara Byers, public educator at the Lifesaving Society.

As many as 93 per cent of new Canadians aged 11 to 14 reported participating in activities on, around or in water, according to the report, called The Influence of Ethnicity on Tweens Swimming and Water Safety in Canada.

Immigrant parents may not be aware of how important it is for children to know how to swim because there are a lot of big milestones to hit in those first years, Byers acknowledged.

"The priority, naturally, is to get a job, get a place to live and get their kids in school. They just may not realize that in order to swim, you need some instruction, you need some training."

Surveying immigrant youth also revealed potential cultural barriers when it came to swimming lessons, said Byers.

BY THE NUMBERS

17%

Percentage of youth 11 to 14 not born in Canada who said they could not swim.

93%

Percentage of those youth who reported taking part in water activities.

"Almost half of them said they didn't believe their parents would be comfortable swimming with someone of another gender."

But community centres and other swimming pools try to be accommodating, pointed out Yvonne Comfort, general manager at the Tong Louie Family YMCA centre in Surrey. People can wear longer T-shirts or shorts to the pool if they prefer, for instance.

"If people want to come to our pool not in a bathing suit but in clothes they are more comfortable in, we allow it," said Comfort.

Immigrants in urban areas such as Metro Vancouver may also find it easier to communicate with pool staff who are used to teaching people from different backgrounds.

"We're lucky we live in such a multicultural city that our instructors and our staff are very diverse," said Comfort.

Siu, who has worked as a lifeguard in Vancouver for 10 years, said language isn't always as big of a barrier as some think. Swimming instructors can teach using cues and games, especially with youth.

"Even if they don't speak English there are definitely ways to instruct them using visual cues," said Siu.

Swimming lessons are important even for children in families who don't do water activities, said Byers. Teenagers can still end up in the water when playing with friends.

"People say, 'Well, we're not swimming families' … we have all been teenagers at one point."

Crash survivors thank rescuers

WHISTLER AREA

Pilot and two friends survived night on a glacier

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

The octogenarian Surrey pilot who survived a night on the glacier on which he and two friends crash-landed last month is speaking out to thank his rescuers.

Vern Hannah, an 81-year-old amateur flier with four decades under his belt, was forced to land his small plane on a glacier near Whistler on June 5.

He said he made a navigation mistake on a day trip to Pemberton from Pitt Meadows and couldn't get enough speed to fly out of the valley in his friend Peter Jedynakiewicz's vintage 1963 Beechcraft Musketeer plane.

Nearly one month after the incident, Hannah told Metro he and his two fellow survivors — Jedynakiewicz and Alan Widelski — were particularly impressed with the professionalism of the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Victoria.

"Those guys did such a good job," he said in a phone interview. He added that he wanted to extend "a very big thank you to Search and Rescue for a very professional rescue" of the three passengers on June 6, after a harrowing five-aircraft search mission found the three survivors safe below their aircraft near a stream on the glacier.

Tuesday will mark one month since Hannah scrawled a message for would-be rescuers in red pen on the side of his aircraft: "We OK, following river, walking to Hwy South."

Authorities told Metro at the time of the search that the required emergency locator-transmitter on board the craft was not functioning — nor had they filed a flight itinerary with anyone else, as required by Transport Canada.

Hannah did not comment on whether he's been flying since the costly rescue, but singled out for kudos a snowmobiler named Nate, who initially spotted his small plane and texted a photo to a friend and pilot Brandon Campbell, who then alerted rescue authorities.

"An especially big thank you to Brandon Campbell and his friend Nate," Hannah wrote, "who discovered the airplane and flew up there to alert (Search and Rescue) who then picked us up."

Vern Hannah and two friends spent the night on a glacier near Whistler after crash landing last month. COURTESY VERN HANNAH

> **A very big thank you to Search and Rescue for a very professional rescue.**
> Vern Hannah

ADVOCACY

Social housing crusader honoured with Order of Canada

When Jean Swanson answered a phone call from Ottawa, she never expected to hear the bureaucrat at the end of the line explain she'd received the Canadian equivalent of a knighthood.

For decades, the 73-year-old has been an outspoken fixture of the city's anti-poverty movement — founder of the End Legislated Poverty coalition, coordinator of the Carnegie Community Action Project, and author of the book Poor Bashing.

"I asked him if it was a joke," she told Metro in a phone interview. "He said no, and that he'd actually read my book."

On Thursday, Swanson was inducted into the Order of Canada, one of the country's most prestigious civilian honours, alongside 113 other Canadians.

According to the website of the Governor General, she was chosen "for her long-standing devotion to social justice, notably for her work with the residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside."

She admitted she wrestled with whether she should accept the honour, since so many others have fought for the cause of social justice alongside her for many years.

"It's kind of weird," she said with a laugh. "You spend all your life fighting the establishment, and they don't do what you want them to do.

"But then they give you an award."

Ultimately, she decided to use the opportunity for another "platform" to talk about the campaign to raise stagnant welfare rates and build social housing in B.C.

The Order of Canada was created to celebrate the country's hundredth anniversary in 1967, and according to the Governor General's website its aim is "to recognize outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation."

"You'd think if my service was so great, they might have done some of the things that I've been fighting for — like ending poverty and homelessness," she said. "Homelessness is getting worse, and the government still needs to build lots of housing and raise welfare rates.

"That's what I'm about and have been for a long time."

DAVID P. BALL/METRO

Jean Swanson DAVID P. BALL

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RCMP

Watchdog probes shooting

B.C.'s police watchdog is looking into a shooting involving police in the Okanagan.

The Independent Investigation Office says a Summerland RCMP officer tried to pull over a vehicle down a dead-end road early Saturday morning. Police shots were fired.

The vehicle fled the area and the police officer was not injured in the confrontation.

The agency says police have indicated that a man with a gunshot wound who may be connected with the incident checked into a local hospital several hours later.

The Independent Investigation Office is automatically called when police actions result in death or serious injury.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HOUSING

Some leave 'tent city'

Over 20 campers packed up and left the controversial "tent city" in Victoria on Friday.

Addressing safety concerns, the B.C. Fire Commissioner ordered more space between tents and less flammable materials used for the makeshift shelters housing about 100 homeless people on the grounds outside the courthouse.

With fewer campers and improved safety conditions, the Fire Commissioner rescinded a call to dismantle the camp.

Its future remains before the courts as hundreds of affidavits supporting an application from the province to close the camp in phases are considered.

People leaving the camp this weekend were moved into a transitional home and promised first dibs on a new supportive housing facility that is set to open Aug. 8. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A plume of smoke could be seen across the Lower Mainland on Sunday after a fire broke out in Burns Bog in Delta.

COURTESY ANGELA FRIDAY PHOTOGRAPHY

Flames force highway closure near peat bog

LOWER MAINLAND

Firefighters battle blaze in nature reserve

A fire burning in a suburban Vancouver conservation area has jumped the highway, forcing roads to close and businesses to be evacuated.

The blaze in Burns Bog was first reported around 11:40 a.m. Sunday, and gusting winds fuelled its growth, said Delta fire chief Dan Copeland.

By evening, the B.C. Wildfire Service said the fire had grown to about half a square kilometre.

"We were struggling. We had heavy winds this afternoon," he said. "They were a bit unpredictable."

Provincial crews were called in to help early Sunday afternoon. Other fire departments in the region also provided backup as the flames spread, eventually jumping Highway 17 and forcing police to evacuate an industrial area.

Police also closed Highway 17 between Highway 99 and the Highway 91 Connector, diverting traffic around the fire, and the Fraser River was closed to marine traffic so air tankers could scoop water.

Delta police chief Neil Dubord said it was unclear whether the roads would reopen in time for rush hour Monday morning.

There was no indication Sunday evening of what caused the fire, Copeland said.

The geography of Burns Bog presents a challenge for fire crews. The 30-square-kilometre nature reserve is one of North America's largest peat bogs.

"If a fire gets underground in that peat, it can run a long way and pop up somewhere else. So it's a very major concern in that regard," said Delta Mayor Lois Jackson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JUSTICE SYSTEM

Man found dead in Sask. psych facility

A man convicted of grisly murders in British Columbia and Manitoba has been found dead in a Saskatchewan psychiatric facility.

The Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatoon issued a statement saying Traigo Ehkid Andretti was found unresponsive in his cell Saturday.

Corrections officials will review the circumstances surrounding Andretti's death and Saskatoon police and the coroner have been notified.

Andretti, 40, was convicted of first-degree murder in 2014 for the death of his wife Jennifer McPherson. Her remains were found scattered on a remote island off the east coast of Vancouver Island.

> "You should be locked up for the rest of your natural life."
> Justice Chris Martin in original sentence

Andretti was later charged with second-degree murder in the 2006 slaying of Myrna Letandre in Manitoba, for which he later pled guilty.

Some of Letandre's remains were found in 2013 in a Winnipeg rooming house where Andretti was living.

Both murder charges carry automatic life sentences and the Manitoba judge overseeing court proceedings in the Letandre murder said Andretti showed an "absence of humanity."

"You should be locked up for the rest of your natural life," said Justice Chris Martin told Andretti as he formally passed sentence.

The Regional Psychiatric Centre is described by the Correctional Service as a multi-level security forensic psychiatry facility. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pipeline plan stymied by ruling

FIRST NATIONS

Court decision decides that consultation was lacking

A pipeline proposal more than a decade in the making has suffered a major setback after a court revoked the federal government's approval for the project to link Alberta's oilsands to British Columbia's north coast, saying Ottawa failed in its duty to consult with aboriginal people.

In a split decision released Thursday, the Federal Court of Appeal quashed approval for Enbridge's $7.9-billion Northern Gateway project.

The judgment says the government neglected to discuss subjects of critical importance to First Nations by ignoring many of the project's impacts and offering only a "brief, hurried and inadequate" opportunity for consultation.

"The inadequacies — more than just a handful and more than mere imperfections — left entire subjects of central interest to the affected First Nations, sometimes subjects affecting their subsistence and well-being, entirely ignored. Many impacts of the project ... were left undisclosed, undiscussed and unconsidered," the decision reads.

"It would have taken Canada little time and little organizational effort to engage in meaningful dialogue on these and other subjects of prime importance to Aboriginal Peoples. But this did not happen."

Northern Gateway would involve the construction of more than a thousand kilometres of pipeline from northeast of Edmonton to Kitimat, B.C., for shipping to international markets. A parallel line would send 193,000 barrels a day of bitumen-thinning diluent in the opposite direction.

The proposal first got the green light from the Canadian government in 2014, but it's been mired in legal uncertainty ever since.

Eight First Nations, four environmental groups and a labour union launched legal challenges against the approval, which were consolidated and heard by the appeal court in October.

The office of federal Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr said it will review the decision before determining its next steps, if any.

The Douglas Channel is the proposed route for tankers in the Northern Gateway Project. The Federal Court of Appeal overturned Ottawa's approval of the project, concluding Canada fell short in its duty to consult with aboriginals. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"The government of Canada is committed to a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with indigenous peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership, including our duty to consult," the statement says.

The three-judge panel that heard the appeal was split 2-1.

In the dissenting opinion, Justice Michael Ryer says the Crown's reasons for concluding it had met its duty to consult were based on a number of factors including that First Nations were encouraged to participate in the process and were entitled to funding to do so.

Many of the First Nations' concerns were accommodated as well in the 209 conditions attached to the project by a joint review panel that found it was in the public interest in December 2013, he wrote.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SHORTFALL

School Board audited after it fails to pass a balanced budget

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The provincial government has launched a forensic audit of the Vancouver School Board after it failed to balance its budget this year.

The board refused to pass a balanced budget, as required by law, Wednesday night and currently faces a $21.8-million shortfall.

This was after the minister of education proposed a deal which would have seen the board sell the land it owns at Kingsgate Mall to help it balance the budget.

The provincial government was prepared to cover $6 million if the sale didn't go through in time for this year's budget, but the board voted against the offer.

Rather than fire the board, Education Minister Mike Bernier told media Thursday that his government will conduct a full review of the board's financial situation and operations that could yet see the current board replaced.

"I know what a lot of you are expecting me to say now, that I'm going to fire the board because they are not doing their jobs," Bernier said. "They are not. But I'm not going to do that today, because parents in Vancouver have had enough as well. They've had enough of the politics."

Instead, an audit team will conduct "a thorough, detailed and in-depth forensic audit of the Vancouver School Board and a full review of their decision making," he said.

VSB chair Mike Lombardi said the board will co-operate with auditors but said the Kingsgate Mall deal on the table was a bad one without additional provincial funding for education.

"The board made clear that the proposal does not meet our needs," said Lombardi.

Taking $6 million out of the district's capital assets and putting them toward its operating budget is "the equivalent of taking out a second mortgage to buy your groceries," he added.

Leasing the land to the mall's owners generates approximately $750,000 a year for the school board, he said.

Asked if he was surprised to still be in a job or if he feared the board will be fired after the audit, Lombardi seemed resolute.

"I've always said I was elected to make a difference for the kids of Vancouver," Lombardi said. "The minister has a variety of options at his disposal and he can exercise them as he sees fit."

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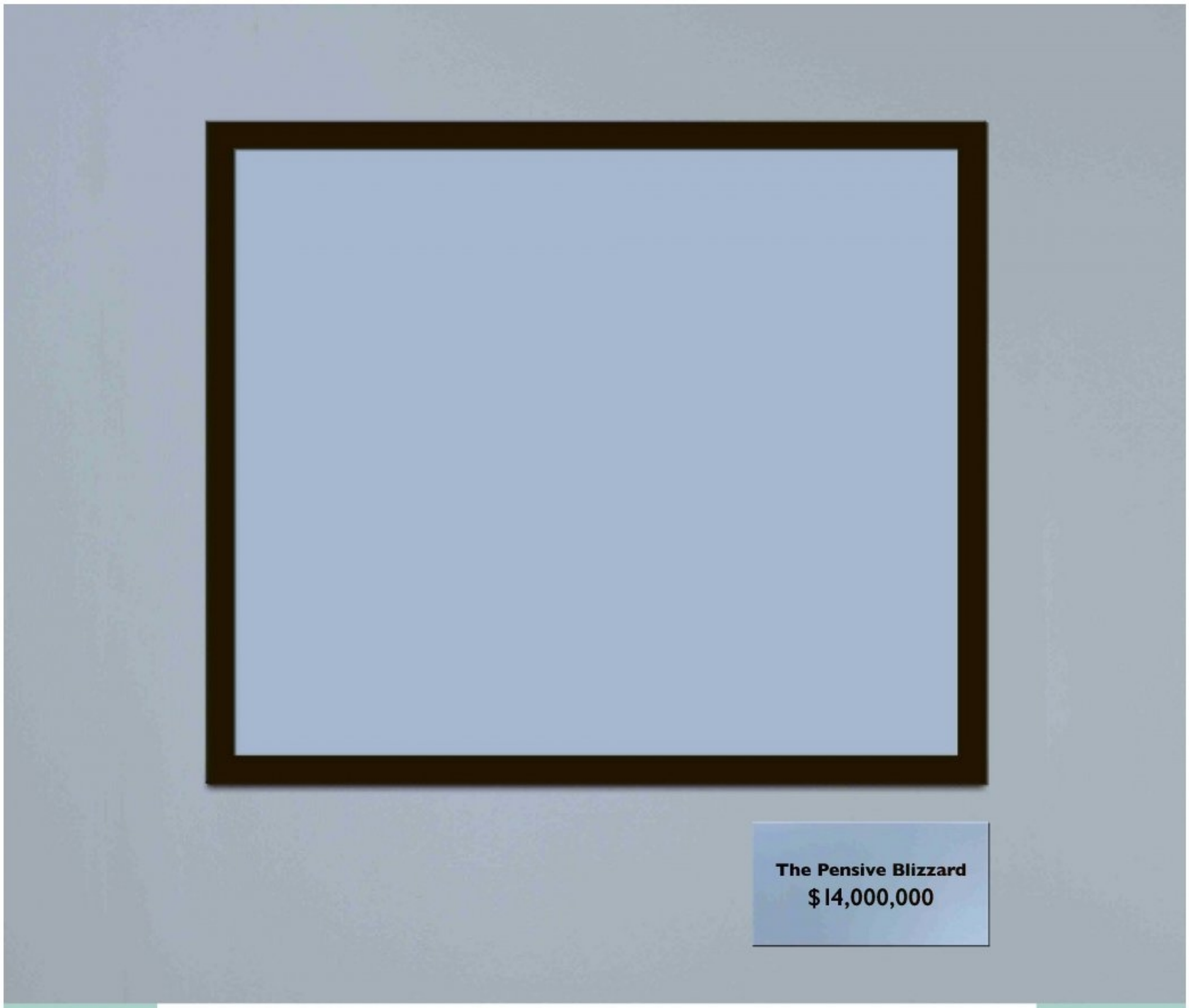

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Fort Mac's emotional fallout

WILDFIRE

Firefighters battling guilt over properties lost, chief says

The man who led the battle against The Beast says many Fort McMurray firefighters are now wrestling a different set of demons.

Fire Chief Darby Allen says the emotional toll is hitting home for the crews who worked non-stop for days to beat back the ferocious wildfire that breached the northeastern Alberta city two months ago.

"They went through one of the most significant events that any firefighter could ever go through," Allen said in a recent interview at Fire Hall No. 1 in downtown Fort McMurray.

Counselling services have been offered from the beginning, but Allen said it's important that help is available for the long haul.

The blaze was so tough to subdue that Allen has likened it to a wild animal.

"It did seem to have a brain. It did seem to want to do things that we didn't want it to do. And whatever plan that we came up with, it seemed to come up with its own plan and fight us at every level."

In the end, about 10 per cent of the town was destroyed, with the majority of the Abasand, Beacon Hill and Waterways neighbourhoods reduced to rubble.

Now, one of the toughest emotions firefighters are battling is guilt, said Allen.

"You can't put all of the fire out and sometimes you have to give up an area to go on to another area," he said. "Sometimes you have to make decisions where you're going to lose certain properties to save other properties."

Many firefighters are beating themselves up because they feel like they could have done more. Some watched their own homes burn, but went back to work.

"The reality is we couldn't have done more," said Allen. "My job has been to reassure them that they've done everything they could and I do truly believe that there were some incredible efforts to save as many properties as we did."

In the city generally, it's a tough time emotionally for residents, said Mayor Melissa Blake.

Alberta Health Services did close to 13,000 counselling sessions between May 10 and June 28, said spokesman Kerry Williamson. THE CANADIAN PRESS

They wanted to stay and they couldn't stay.

Fire Chief Darby Allen, who says the call to pull firefighters out of some areas was a matter of life and death.

CELEBRATION TRUDEAU PROUD TO MAKE HISTORY Prime Minister Justin Trudeau waves a flag as he takes part in the annual Pride Parade in Toronto on Sunday. Canada's largest Pride parade marked another milestone Sunday as a sitting prime minister marched for the first time in the colourful celebration, which was tempered by last month's shooting massacre in Orlando. A river of multi-coloured floats and marchers came to a halt and stood in silence along with masses of onlookers to remember the shooting's 49 victims. Trudeau said the Florida tragedy is a reminder that "we can't let hate go by." MARK BLINCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

COURAGE

Canadians grieve passing of Elie Wiesel

Many Canadians were mourning the death of Nobel Peace Prize winner, Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel this weekend.

On social media, prominent Canadian politicians paid tribute to Wiesel, who was an advocate for victims of violence and oppression.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted, "Elie Wiesel spent his life in service to humanity, keeping the memory of the Holocaust's horror alive. It is for us all to carry this torch."

Former prime minister Stephen Harper said he was "profoundly saddened" to hear that Wiesel died at the age of 87.

Harper said the world has lost a brilliant voice for "human dignity."

Former Ontario premier Bob Rae tweeted that he first heard Wiesel speak in 1969 and it made a lasting impression.

"Ever since then he has been for me a beacon of courage + hope," Rae wrote in a Twitter post.

Wiesel was memorialized Sunday at a private service in Manhattan. Family and friends gathered at Fifth Avenue Synagogue, praising Wiesel's endurance and eloquence and mourning him as one of the last firsthand witnesses to the Nazis' atrocities.

The Romanian-born Wiesel is best known for his first book Night, which told the story of his experiences in the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Elie Wiesel in Toronto in 2009. THE CANADIAN PRESS

As a scholar and political activist, Wiesel was no stranger to Canada.

In 2012, Wiesel joined a number of Jewish faith leaders in condemning Canada's cuts to health care for some refugee claimants.

A letter written by Wiesel to the then Conservative government that was obtained by The Globe and Mail stated, "Today, as yesterday, a nation is judged by its attitude towards refugees."

His words did not sway the Tories who also introduced policies barring refugees who were not brought to Canada directly by the government from getting supplemental health benefits.

Wiesel had made a number of appearances in Canada including speaking to Toronto youth at a We Day event in 2009.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Car bomb kills 115

BAGHDAD

Children among victims in attack on shopping area

A suicide truck bomb in downtown Baghdad killed 115 people and wounded nearly 200 others who were out shopping and celebrating early Sunday ahead of the holiday marking the end of Ramadan, security and medical officials said.

The attack, claimed by Daesh (also known as the Islamic State group), was the deadliest in months in the Iraqi capital, and came despite a series of recent gains against the extremists, including the capture of Fallujah, which was believed to have been a source of such attacks.

The bomb went off shortly after midnight in a crowded shopping area in the central Karada district, killing at least 115 people and wounding 187, according to a police official. The dead included at least 15 children, 10 women and six policemen. At least 12 other people were still missing and feared dead.

Karada is a major commercial area lined with clothing and jewelry stores, restaurants and cafés, and was packed with shoppers ahead of Wednesday's Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of Ramadan. Most of the victims were inside a multi-storey shopping and amusement mall, where dozens burned to death or suffocated, police said.

It was the deadliest attack in Iraq since July 2015 and among the worst single bombings in more than a decade of war and insurgency.

"It was like an earthquake," said Karim Sami, a 35-year-old street vendor. "I wrapped up my goods and was heading home when I saw a fireball with a thunderous bombing," the father of three said.

"I was so scared to go back and started to make phone calls to my friends, but none answered." He said that one of his friends was killed, another was wounded and one was still missing.

As with many previous attacks, Daesh swiftly claimed responsibility for the bombing in a statement posted online, saying it had targeted Shiite Muslims. The authenticity of the statement could not be verified, but it was posted on a militant website commonly used by the extremists.

Firefighters and civilians could be seen carrying the dead away, their bodies wrapped in blankets and sheets. Smoke billowed from the shopping centre, which was surrounded by the twisted and burned wreckage of cars and market stalls. A group of women were sitting on the pavement, crying for their loved ones.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, a roadside bomb went off in the mostly Shiite Shaab neighbourhood, killing five people and wounding 16, another police officer said. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but it bore the hallmarks of Daesh militants.

The Sunni extremists frequently target the country's Shiite majority and Shiite-led security forces, viewing them as apostates deserving of death.

Early Sunday evening, exhausted family members sat on sidewalks at the Karada site silently awaiting news of missing loved ones as others began to hang freshly printed death notices for the police officers and shop owners killed. Young people lit candles on street corners. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi women wait to hear about family members who went missing after a car bomb hit Karada, a busy shopping district in the centre of Baghdad on Sunday. HADI MIZBAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FURY

The attack fuelled anger toward Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi.

- When al-Abadi visited the site of the suicide blast, a furious mob surrounded his convoy, yelling expletives, hurling rocks and shoes and calling him a "thief."
- Many Iraqis blame their political leadership for lapses in security in Baghdad that have allowed large amounts of explosives to make their way past multiple checkpoints and into neighbourhoods packed with civilians.

IN BRIEF

Bangladesh hunts hostage crisis clues

Security officials searched on Sunday for evidence and the possible masterminds of the weekend hostage-taking in an upscale restaurant in Bangladesh's capital. The government has denied Daesh's claim of responsibility for the attack that left 28 dead, including six attackers. Police released the first names of five attackers, who they say belonged to the banned domestic group Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROBE

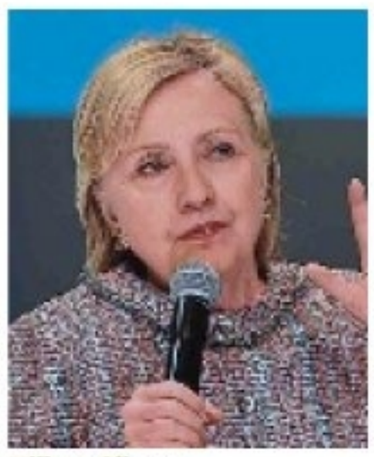
FBI questions Clinton on emails

Hillary Clinton's interview with the FBI may signal that the Justice Department is nearing the end of its yearlong probe of her use of a private email server while secretary of state, a controversy that has hung over her White House bid.

"I've been eager to do it, and I was pleased to have the opportunity to assist the department in bringing its review to a conclusion," Clinton said in describing the FBI session to NBC's Meet the Press for an interview that aired Sunday. She agreed that the tone of meeting with investigators had been civil and business-like.

Clinton said she had no knowledge of any timeline for the review and would not comment on whether she was given an indication that charges would not be filed.

The presumptive presidential nominee for the Democratic Party gave a voluntary interview for 3-1/2 hours Saturday at FBI headquarters in Washington, her campaign announced. Spokespeople for the FBI and the Justice Department declined to comment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Hillary Clinton
ROBYN BECK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Montreal's Saint-Sulpice library, which opened in 1915 and is an important piece of Quebec's religious heritage, sat vacant for years as officials tried to determine an appropriate use for the building. The Quebec government announced a $17-million restoration project in early 2016. PHOTOS: ALLAN WOODS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hotel Dieu hospital is scheduled to shut down in 2016. The City of Montreal intends to buy the property and redevelop it into social housing but it will likely sit vacant until plans are developed and funds are raised.

Matchmaking for vacant buildings, Airbnb-style

MONTREAL

Group wants to fill spaces with temporary tenants

Toronto has tried cash rebates and Vancouver wants a tax. But in Montreal, a group of heritage buffs, urbanists and architects are importing a different approach to deal with the scourge of vacant buildings.

Where some see an eyesore, urban blight or a future condo tower, Mallory Wilson and Jonathan Lapalme see an elegant solution to a long-standing problem.

In May, they launched Entremise, a non-profit organization with the simply stated goal of connecting people in need of spaces with spaces in need of people.

Based on a concept that has already been developed in a number of European capitals, its time may have come in Quebec's largest city. Montreal has a glut of churches and religious buildings struggling to remain relevant or even to remain standing amid dwindling congregations.

The city also has several hospital buildings that are or will soon be sitting empty after services were merged at two recently built super-hospitals.

> **The idea of not letting a vacant building be vacated too long is an issue of safeguarding.** Dinu Bumbaru

"Those are huge building complexes. The idea of saying that we're going to figure out today what this entire space is going to look like is kind of crazy," Wilson said.

"What we'd like to show with a project like this is that you can do something in the buildings for 10 years and it's a lot easier, a lot simpler, a lot less investment than finding something 50 or more years down the line."

In the 1970s, heritage officials were preoccupied with the threat that culturally, historically or architecturally important structures would be demolished, said Dinu Bumbaru, policy director with Heritage Montreal. Now vacancy is the hazard.

"In 2016, we have realized that the big challenge is revitalization — to put heritage to good use," he said in an interview.

It makes sense in some locations to maintain a historic church, a 19th-century factory, or a stately home as a museum. But it can take many years and a small fortune to transform a surplus church into a public library or an abandoned factory into a trendy retail development.

And "built heritage," unlike museum artifacts, can't be stored away and protected from the ravages of time, Bumbaru said.

"A building is always exposed to the forces of nature and, to some extent, the forces of society. Vandalism is an issue. So are squatters," he said.

"The idea of not letting a vacant building be vacated too long is an issue of safeguarding."

That is the same pitch that Entremise is making to the owners of vacant properties in Montreal: that they will ultimately save money in repairs by welcoming in temporary tenants such as startup businesses, artist collectives or live-in renters to care for their building and flag potential problems in exchange for affordable rents.

"We are able to convince people of the value of the strategy very, very quickly," Lapalme said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TRAVEL

London calling to Canadians after Brexit

Travel companies say more Canadians are looking at vacations in the United Kingdom because of the dropping British pound in the wake of the country's decision to leave the European Union.

Melisse Hinkle of Cheapflights.ca says the travel website experienced a 50 per cent spike in searches for flights from Canada to the U.K. on the weekend after the June 23 vote and interest has been strong since.

"Savvy travellers have realized that, while the long-term impact of the Brexit means big changes for travel to and within Europe, there is an immediate opportunity for more affordable travel," she said in an email.

C$1.70

Senior economist Royce Mendes of CIBC says he expects the pound to drop to C$1.70 over the next three months due to political uncertainty.

Hinkle attributed the spike in interest to the drop in the pound's value against the loonie, making everything from London flights to West End theatre tickets cheaper for Canadians.

The British pound rapidly fell to three-decade lows after the referendum, though it has since regained some ground.

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URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

Now that my friend is married, she won't have dinner or coffee with me until after she's gone home to make dinner for her husband. How do I tell her that she's going overboard?

Hello Ellen,

Since my friend's recent marriage, she only wants to meet after dinner around 8 or 9. I try to convince her to meet for dinner, or a quick coffee after work, but she says she has to go home and cook for her husband. I'm all for cooking for your husband and so on (least feminist person here) and I'm getting married soon, but it seems silly and unreasonable! Yes, your marriage comes first, but you need to have hobbies and friends separate from your partner. How do I tell my friend without insulting her that her husband can fend for himself for one evening?

Signed,
Desperate for advice

Dear Desperate,

I'm sorry to hear you do not consider yourself a feminist, since you clearly believe in the crazy feminist notion that non-male persons are just as entitled to their own hobbies and friends as male persons are, and that male persons are actually capable of feeding themselves when left alone.

Perhaps you don't understand that "feminism" is simply the belief that all humans deserve to be treated with equal respect and opportunity. Or perhaps as a non-feminist you actually think "women's work" is less valuable than men's; and that a woman doing the same job as a man should be paid less. Or perhaps as a non-feminist you think that the laws of man and nature dictate that you are inferior to your future husband in a moral, physical, or some other fundamental way, and thus you fully plan to submit to his every wish and command throughout your marriage in matters that do not include your hobbies and friends. Well, good luck to you, I say.

If she's simply madly in love and can't stand being away from her guy during the honeymoon phase, rest assured this period will end soon.

In the meantime, I absolutely agree with you that your friend is misguided if she thinks a good marriage depends on cutting off old friends at the dinner hour. But before you barge in and tell her this, my advice is to hold your tongue until you know exactly what's going on.

If she's simply madly in love and can't stand being away from her guy during the honeymoon phase, rest assured this period will end soon enough, so why not let her enjoy it while it lasts?

If she's one of those odious people who think couple activities automatically trump plans with socially undesirable singletons, there's no point in saying everything, ever. Do your couple thing with her once you're married too, but remember how you felt being rejected as a single "date" and try to be more courteous toward your own single friends.

If she's being bullied into rushing home and slaving over a hot stove for a tyrant, but she's too ashamed to tell you, then what she needs right now is your non-judgmental support. If and when she opens up, you can then offer help rather than a lecture.

Keep in mind that it's also possible her husband is making her breakfast in bed every day, then packing her a nutritious three-course lunch, in which case you might consider that her making dinner is merely part of a sweet deal.

Please also consider your ideas of what a feminist is, because you — as a loyal, concerned friend and an independent thinker and a self-respecting human being who believes in open and honest communication — sure sound like one to me.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

In 2016, women are still second-class sexual citizens

It's not hard to see why women might think their genitals are dirty.

Our anatomy doesn't get half the cultural love or metaphorical dominance of the penis.

Even the word vagina is somehow taboo. Add to that the ubiquity of women's pubic-hair grooming — shaving, waxing, dying, bedazzling — and it seems that if anyone's sexuality needs to be made pretty, it's women's. Nevermind that our species has been knocking boots for centuries without nary a shower in sight: In a survey published in the journal JAMA Dermatology last week, 84 per cent of women said they groom, and 59 per cent cited the main reason as "hygiene."

As doctors in one New York Times article noted, that is ridiculous. Aside from some daily soap action, women's genitals don't need to be made clean. And it's hard not to read myriad sexual hang-ups into the suggestion that they would be.

It seems come-as-you-are sexuality still belongs mostly to men, whom western culture has deemed the gold standard for good times in bed. In her new book, Closer: Notes from the Orgasmic Frontier of Female Sexuality, Sarah Barmak has attempted to define this new place, where sex is omnipresent, but the actual sex we're having isn't always that great. The ho-hum reality is that 40 per cent of women in a large 2013 British survey said they're low on sex drive. More than half reported some kind of sexual discomfort or dysfunction.

Men's sex lives obviously aren't perfect, Barmak told me during a conversation for my podcast, Nth Wave, but women are, according to the data, having less of a good time. (She noted the 2015 Vanity Fair Tinder story where women complained the popular app was a great way to have a ton of unsatisfying sex.)

In her book, Barmak takes a wide look at this: historically imbalanced science in which studies on women's sexuality trail men's by three to one; the real physiological complexity of women's sexual organs; grassroots efforts — like orgasm workshops and clit-stroking meditation — that seek to re-centre women's pleasure, if only in the lives of women themselves.

The book is a "provocation, a poke, food for further thought," she notes, incomplete by nature since a comprehensive exploration of sexual identities and preferences would take at least a few more books.

But every poke in the right direction is a good one. There's no one single, normal way to be sexual, she concludes. My amendment: As long as you're truly feeling good about you.

Search for 'Nth Wave,' Rosie's podcast, on iTunes, Stitcher and Soundcloud.

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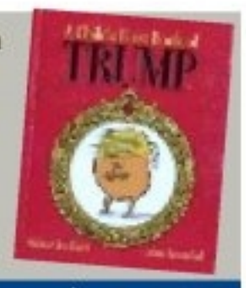
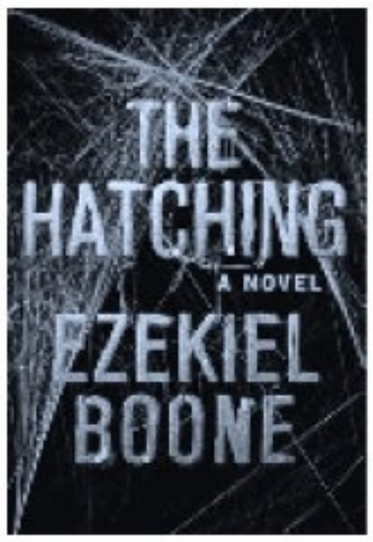
Monday, July 4, 2016

Out on Tuesday, just in time for the Republican convention this month, **A Child's First Book of Trump** explains the presidential hopeful in Seussian prose.



BOOK EXCERPT **THE HATCHING: A NOVEL, BY EZEKIEL BOONE**

'There was clearly something wrong'



Looking for a good summer read to take to the beach or the cottage? Well, hopefully you aren't arachnophobic.

Set over the period of a week, Ezekial Boone's **The Hatching** — out Tuesday from Random House — is the hair-raising tale of ancient and vicious flesh-eating spiders that return to terrorize the world.

In this excerpt, agent Mike Rich is called by the director of the FBI to investigate a mysteriously downed plane.

EXCERPTED FROM THE HATCHING. COPYRIGHT © 2016 EZEKIEL BOONE. PUBLISHED BY RANDOM HOUSE CANADA, A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE OF CANADA LIMITED, A PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE COMPANY. REPRODUCED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PUBLISHER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Frantic, he ran the light on the wall and then the ceiling, then across Henderson's face and torso and down the burnt flesh and exposed bones of Henderson's leg. And there. Relief. The spider. On the ground.

It was moving slowly. Mike knew it wasn't the right word for an eight-legged thing, but it looked as if the spider was limping. He squinted and leaned over.

There was clearly something wrong with the bug — two of its legs weren't moving and it was dragging its body along the ground. Maybe it had been injured in the crash or gotten burned too? Mike shook his head. Who cared what happened to the spider? The only question that mattered was, how the f— had it gotten into Henderson's head?

Except, Mike realized, as he watched the spider dragging its body across the floor, the question that was bothering him the most was, why in all of the angels of mercy was the spider coming toward him? Because it was absolutely headed toward him. It wasn't trying to get away or hide or even oblivious of Mike. It wasn't doing any of the things that to Mike, in his limited experience with creepy crawlies, seemed natural.

No, it was clearly moving in his direction.

Mike tried stepping to the side, and the spider changed its line, angling toward him again. Mike took another step to the side and banged into the table that was next to Henderson's chair, and again, the spider changed its bearing. Mike started to reach for his gun, but he quickly realized that shooting a spider might be overkill.

He started to psych himself up to just squash the thing with his foot — it might be big and hairy and incredibly creepy what with the eating its way out of Henderson's face and then making a beeline for Mike, but it was still something he could stomp on — when the spider stopped moving on a dark spot on the floor.

It took Mike a second to understand what the spider was doing.

The dark spot on the floor was blood. He looked at the suit jacket wrapped around his hand and saw a drop of blood fall to the floor.

He had been bleeding on the floor.

The dark spot on the floor was his blood.

And as near as he could tell, the spider appeared to be feeding.

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5 TIPS FOR PROPERLY USING YOUR CREDIT CARDS

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

If you've been avoiding a credit card because you see it as a step on the road to debt hell, let me assure you that the tool isn't the problem. It's how you use it that's the issue. I'm a fan of credit cards, particularly for people who are trying to establish a credit history. If you want to stay on the right side of balance sheet when it comes to using credit cards, make sure you follow these 5 rules

1 Pay your bill in full every month

As long as you're using credit to establish a credit history and for convenience, you're fine. The minute you start carrying a balance it means you're spending money you have not yet earned. If you don't have the self-discipline to pay your credit card balance off in full and on time every single month then don't use a credit card. It's that simple. Denying your nature will get you in a lot of debt and a heap of misery.

2 Choose a card that gives back

You don't have to pay an annual fee to get a card that earns you rewards. Whether you earn points to buy groceries or you get cash back, that's money you don't have to earn. Since rewards cards usually have higher interest rates, don't be stupid and carry a balance or you'll more than negate the benefits.

3 Track your spending

It's so easy to just whip out a card and — cachunk cachunk — charge it. If you don't track your spending you could be surprised by a credit card bill that's higher than you can afford to repay come the due date. Keep track of where your money is going each time you spend — whether you use cash or a credit card — so you're always shopping consciously.

4 Review your credit card statement every month

It's not enough to just pay the bill. Comparing the charges that have come through on your statement with those you noted in your spending journal is the only way you'll know if you've been overcharged, if your account has been fraudulently used, or if you've been charged in error.

5 Check your credit history

You should do this at least once a year. You can get a free credit report from each of Equifax and TransUnion just by writing in to request it. Look for errors or signs of ID theft. Make sure that if you find an error you get it corrected lickety-split. And you'll have to follow-up and follow-up. Don't assume the other guy is looking out for your best interests. It may take several calls to get an issue cleared up.

metro SPORTS

In his first start since winning the U.S. Open, Dustin Johnson closed with a 4-under 66 to win the Bridgestone Invitational

Whitecaps hope to erase loss

MLS

Toronto FC defeat looms ahead of match against Galaxy

Whitecaps Blas Perez, left, and Nicolas Mezquida, bottom right, react as Toronto FC players celebrate after winning the Amway Canadian Championship at BC Place Stadium last Wednesday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The memory of what is possibly the most heart-wrenching loss in franchise history will be fresh in the Vancouver Whitecaps' minds when they face the L.A. Galaxy on the road in a Major League Soccer game Monday.

The Whitecaps thought they had won the Amway Canadian Championship Wednesday until conceding a goal late in extra time which allowed Toronto FC to take the title.

Learning the lessons from that loss will be important as the Whitecaps move into a busy July which sees them play five games.

"I think going into this game, with what happened on Wednesday night, is going to be a very good storyline to our season," said defender Tim Parker. "To see what kind of character we have, what kind of heart we have, see how much we are willing to battle for one another."

The Whitecaps go into the match with a 7-7-3 record, leaving them one point ahead of the Galaxy (5-3-8) in the Western Conference standings. The Galaxy are an impressive 4-0-4 at Stubhub Centre.

Vancouver defender Jordan Harvey said the loss against Toronto was "probably the worst way I've ever lost a game in my entire career, starting from when I was maybe six years old."

It also followed a disturbing trend this season.

"Mistakes that have been at key moments of games that have really cost us," said the 32-year-old from Mission Viejo, Calif. "It's not one individual person. Everybody at one point or another has made a mistake that has potentially let in a goal or not scored a goal.

"Going forward, we have to clean those up and capitalize on opportunities and be more compact. I think we are a better team than last year, but sometimes you have to take a step back before you take two forward."

> **It's important to rebound from any defeat, particularly something as drastic as what happened on Wednesday night.** Martyn Pert

The star-studded Galaxy have an 8-3-3 record against the Whitecaps. The teams battled to a 0-0 tie at BC Place Stadium earlier this season.

Martyn Pert, Vancouver's assistant coach, said facing L.A. could be the best medicine to heal the Whitecaps' wounded spirits.

"It's important to rebound from any defeat, particularly something as drastic as what happened on Wednesday night," said Pert. "We have shown that resiliency before."

The Whitecaps gained a major confidence boost last year when they scored a 1-0 win over the Galaxy in Los Angeles. That ended L.A.'s 29-game, all-competition unbeaten streak at home.

The Galaxy should be at full strength for the game with Robbie Keane and Gyasi Zardes both available.

Keane made two appearances for the Republic of Ireland at Euro 2016. Gyasi Zardes played in six matches for the United States at the Copa America Centenario.

Harvey said the key against L.A. is for individuals to take responsibility for their own play.

"Everybody is going to have to play and win their individual battles," he said.

The Whitecaps are 3-5-0 on the road this year. In their last MLS match, they defeated Philadelphia 3-2, handing the Union their first loss at home.

Midfielder Kekuta Manneh thinks Vancouver can do the same against L.A.

"We want to win, make a statement, and put ourselves in a good position to make the playoffs," he said. "In MLS, road games are difficult. For us, we want to win every single game away. We think it's a perfect opportunity." THE CANADIAN PRESS

ON THE ROAD

- The Whitecaps are 3-5-0 in away games this year.
- In their last MLS match, they defeated Philadelphia 3-2, handing the Union their first loss at home.

BASKETBALL

Men's team 'focused' on Olympic qualifier

Cleveland Cavaliers centre Tristan Thompson, Toronto Raptors guard Cory Joseph and Detroit Pistons forward Joel Anthony were all named to Canada's 12-man roster on Sunday for the six-team Olympic qualifying tournament.

Canada went 4-1 in a European exhibition tournament, taking on China, Croatia, Italy and Puerto Rico. Joseph and Anthony joined the group for the June 29th win over Puerto Rico, and Thompson met the team in Manila, Philippines, where the qualifying tournament begins on Tuesday.

Tristan Thompson
GETTY IMAGES

"Our goal is to qualify for the Olympics," said head coach Jay Triano. "We are focused on one practice at a time and one game at a time." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Rondo joins Bulls: Source

Rajon Rondo has a new beginning in Chicago, and the Bulls have a new starting point guard.

The four-time all-star agreed Sunday on a $30-million, two-year deal, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press.

Rondo had at least 10 assists in 51 of his 72 games with the Kings last season, including two games where he finished with 20.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pospisil, Sock ace French duo in Wimbledon doubles

Vancouver's Vasek Pospisil and American partner Jack Sock beat French duo Quentin Halys and Tristan Lamasine 7-6, 6-7, 6-4 on Sunday in the men's doubles tournament at Wimbledon.

They will play Australia's Lleyton Hewitt and Jordan Thompson in the next round.

Sock won the match with an ace right down the middle, just catching the centre line. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WIMBLEDON

Milestone win moves Williams to 4th round

Serena Williams has won so many Grand Slam matches that she's lost count. Then again, as she noted Sunday, her losses get more attention nowadays.

Looking much more ready for Week 2 at Wimbledon than she did in her previous outing, Williams joined Martina Navratilova as the only women with 300 victories at major tournaments in the Open era by overwhelming Annika Beck 6-3, 6-0 in 51 minutes to get to the fourth round.

"Every time I step out on the court, if I don't win, it's major national news," Williams said. "But if I do win, it's just like a small tag in the corner."

Williams will next face two-time major champion Svetlana Kuznetsova today.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

300

Serena Williams' third round victory was her **300th career win in a Grand Slam tournament.**

France has no chill

EURO 2016
QUARTER-FINALS

Host finds ruthless attack to oust Iceland

SUNDAY In Saint-Denis

5 FFF — 2 KSI

Olivier Giroud scored two goals to lead France to an emphatic 5-2 victory over Iceland on Sunday, sending the hosts into a European Championship semifinal against Germany.

It was a humbling but far from embarrassing exit for Iceland, which was playing in its first-ever international tournament and progressed much further than expected.

The French, though, have discovered their attacking ruthlessness just in time for their first semifinal in a decade on Thursday in Marseille.

"We have a lot of desire to get our own back for what happened at the World Cup," Giroud said of the quarter-final loss to eventual champion Germany two years ago.

Giroud, who was booed by the team's fans in May, is proving to be an essential component of Les Bleus, netting the opener and heading in France's fifth goal in the second half at the Stade de France.

And he was clearly glad to be popular again with the supporters.

"I am delighted for the players as they deserve this, and for these fans who have been behind us for months," the Arsenal striker said through a translator. "To be able to offer them something to make them smile and feel happy ... I'm delighted about that."

Giroud helped to set up goals for Dimitri Payet and Antoine Griezmann, while Paul Pogba also scored in the first half for France, whose previous goals at Euro 2016 had all come after the break.

"I felt really good physically right from the start," Giroud said. "We are used to making bad starts ... but we were very clinical which is nice from a personal perspective."

The night began with rain descending on the field and the Viking slow capping ritual, with its "Huh" chant, booming around the stadium from the Iceland fans.

Olivier Giroud, second from left, heads the ball for France's fifth goal against Iceland on Sunday. MIKE HEWITT/GETTY IMAGES

France wasn't going to have its home stadium to itself and Gylfi Sigurdsson even had the game's first shot although it was easily saved by France captain Hugo Lloris.

But inspirational chants and a strong team ethic only take a team so far. This was a night of French superiority; when stature and skill of the hosts was too mighty to curb.

Kolbeinn Sigthorsson and Birkir Bjarnason provided the goals for Iceland.

"Iceland didn't give up at any stage," Giroud said. "They were a very valiant and determined side who kept on going until the end."

And its fans remained chanting in their seats long after the final whistle, taking in the surroundings.

It was an enchanting tournament debut by Iceland, drawing against Poland before eliminating England — an achievement that will be remembered along with the feats of the new European champion, to be crowned back at the Stade de France next Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEMIFINALS

Wednesday
Portugal vs. Wales
Thursday
Germany vs. France

IN BRIEF

Blue Jays pile on Indians
Russell Martin and Troy Tulowitzki each hit three-run home runs as the Toronto Blue Jays thumped the Cleveland Indians 17-1 in the series finale on Sunday afternoon.

J.A. Happ (11-3) threw seven innings allowing one run on five hits while striking out a season-high 11 batters.

The 17 runs scored were the most Toronto's earned since a 17-11 win over the Tampa Bay Rays on Aug. 7, 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smith powers M's past O's
Seth Smith hit his first career grand slam, homering for the fourth straight game and leading the Seattle Mariners over the Baltimore Orioles 9-4 Sunday for a four-game sweep.

Seattle had 31 runs and 47 hits, including 23 for extra bases, in sweeping the AL East leaders. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamilton's win comes at teammate's expense
Lewis Hamilton won the Austrian Grand Prix on Sunday after colliding with Nico Rosberg on the final lap, an incident he blamed on his German teammate.

The two Mercedes drivers touched as Hamilton sought to overtake and Formula One championship leader Rosberg ended up losing his front wing, which caused him to drop back to fourth. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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LPGA

Henderson wins again in Portland

Brooke Henderson survived some tense moments on the back nine on the way to defending her title at the LPGA Cambia Portland Classic on Sunday with a four-stroke victory.

The second-ranked Henderson, from Smiths Falls, Ont., shot a 14-under 274 after a final round 71 at Columbia Edgewater Country Club, pulling away from American Stacy Lewis, who shot a 10-under 69.

"To repeat and try to defend a championship for the first time and be able to do it is, I think, a really big deal," Henderson said. "Third win on the LPGA Tour is really cool."

Henderson became the first back-to-back winner at Portland since Annika Sorenstam won consecutive tournaments in 2002 and 2003.

Henderson is the tour's second wire-to-wire winner this year, joining Ha Na Jang, who won the Coates Championship in February.

It was Henderson's third career win, all coming in the Northwest. Aside from her two Portland victories, Henderson won the Women's PGA Championship at Sahalee in Sammamish, Wash., three weeks ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brooke Henderson GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE Halibut Tacos with Strawberry Salsa

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This fish taco is lighter and healthier than the deep fried norm.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 pound halibut fillets
- Olive oil
- 1/4 tsp ground coriander
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp ground garlic
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1/2 tsp salt, divided
- 6 to 8 small corn tortillas
- 1 cup diced strawberries
- 1 cup watermelon cubes, diced
- 1/4 cup diced red onion
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp fresh chopped cilantro
- 1 avocado, sliced for garnish

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Place fish on the pan and give each piece a coating of oil.

2. In a small bowl, whisk the coriander, cumin, garlic, pepper and a 1/4 teaspoon of the salt. Sprinkle the fillet with the mixture to coat.

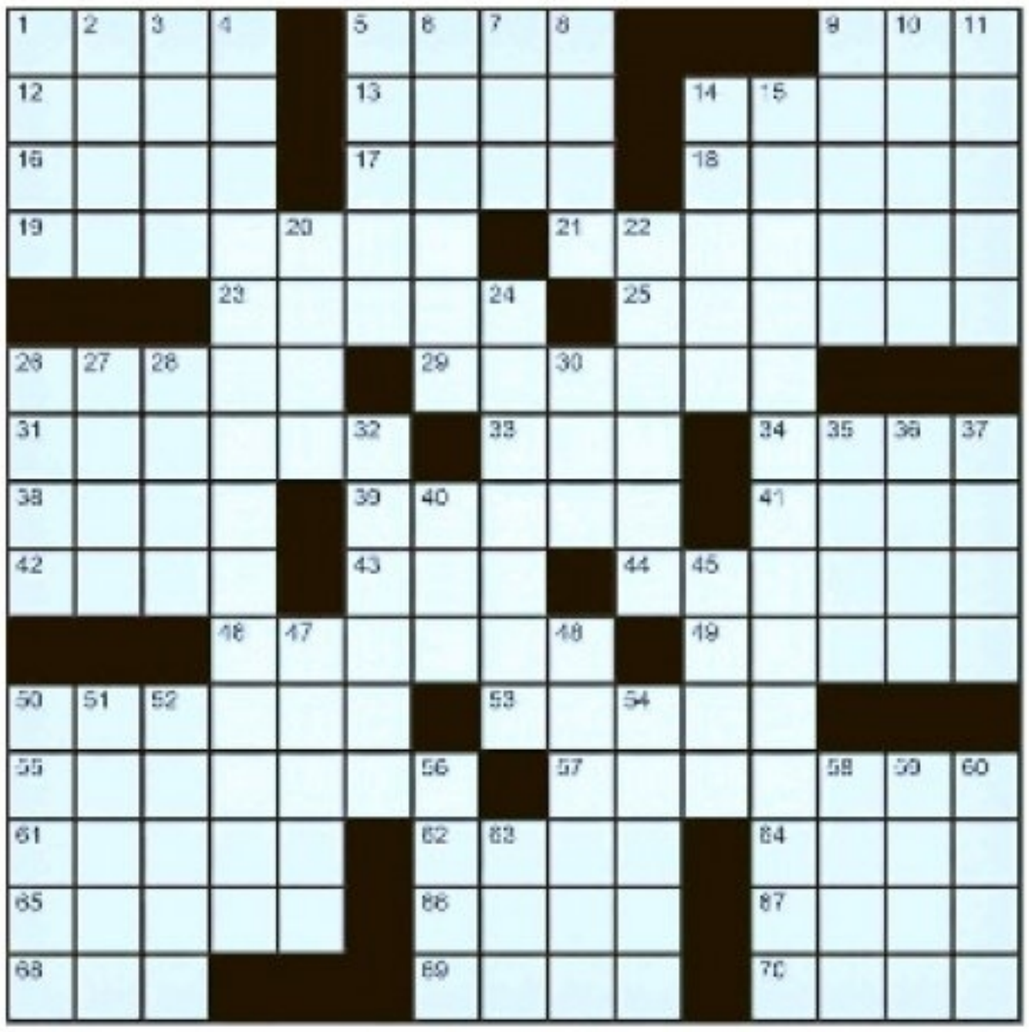
3. Cook the fish until it's opaque and the meat flakes with a fork (10 to 15 minutes). Wrap a stack of tortillas in a moist towel and place in a casserole dish and cover with a lid or aluminium foil. Place in the oven for 10 minutes to warm.

4. In a bowl, mix strawberries, watermelon, onion and lemon juice. Sprinkle with the cilantro and remaining 1/4 tsp of salt and toss.

5. Serve fish flaked into large pieces with tortillas, salsa and slices of avocado.

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. City in Normandy in France where Canadians saw action in WWII
5. Stupefy
9. Evita's land, for short
12. Mr. Nova (Canadian singer/guitarist)
13. One of Frank Sinatra's kids
14. Khloe K.'s on-again-off-again beau
16. Mork's greeting, partially
17. Perched on
18. French writer Mr. Zola
19. Hard labour
21. "Roxy Roller" by Canadian band _ Todd
23. Venerated villager
25. Throughout
26. Extract metal from ore
29. Mount Parnassus overlooks this 'oracle' city in Greece
31. Lionel Richie and Adele hit titles
33. Agnus _ (Lamb of God)
34. Kind of fish
38. Strait of Belle _
39. Space object
41. Chill
42. Flowers display
43. "_ Tree Hill"
44. Baseball game division
46. Felix _, Canadian electronica producer
49. "_ of God" (1985)
50. Breakfast _
53. Trunk
55. Hang in there!
57. Justin _ (Nanaimo, British Columbia born star of the show at #15-Down)
61. Dispatch boat
62. Travelling
64. Arctic _ (Northern-hopping critter)
65. "Dracula Has _ from the Grave" (1968)
66. Serene
67. Doctrines
68. Cup o' Earl Grey stirrer
69. Leg point
70. Discuss

DOWN
1. Isn't able
2. Banned orchard spray
3. John Diefenbaker's first wife
4. Nova Scotia ...en francais
5. Formally boring
6. Like Sirs and Dames
7. Card game
8. Falls asleep at work
9. _ acid
10. Stethoscope sounds
11. "_ Anatomy"
14. Bloodsucker
15. Grant Wood painting of 1930 sharing the name of a new show on Global TV: 2 wds.
20. _ sax
22. Elk
24. Beef, for example: 2 wds.
26. Switchblade
27. Colorado's _ Verde National Park
28. Building wings
30. Tommy Jones link
32. Gets goals
35. Once more ...Western film style
36. Old Scandinavian symbol
37. Nails down
40. Gravenhurst's prov.
45. Shuttle mission org.
47. Airplane: French
48. Vicinity
50. Isolated
51. Mr. Strauss' pants
52. Coffee _ (Canuck treat)
54. Emulate Drake in song
56. Fasten to the bulletin board
58. Launder
59. "_ la Douce" (1963)
60. 'Building' in the branches
63. Obi-_ Kenobi

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is the best day of the year to think about how you can improve your home. Also, what can you do to improve your relations with family members?

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Think about your style of communicating with others today. What can you do to have clearer communication with everyone?

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Today's New Moon is the only New Moon all year urging you to think about how to better handle your money and your belongings. Do you take care of what you have?

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Take a realistic look in the mirror and ask yourself what you can do to improve the image you create in your world. How can you look better in the eyes of others?

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is a good day to think of your spiritual values. Each New Moon is a chance to make resolutions about how to improve your life.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Are you happy with the friends you have? Remember that your friends will influence your mind, which makes the choices that create your future.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is the only New Moon all year urging you to examine your relationship to authority figures — parents, bosses, teachers and VIPs. How can you improve these relationships?

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
What further education or training will help you in your job? What travel might help you to expand your world?

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
What can you do to work to get out of debt and feel more financially secure? This is the perfect day to ponder this and decide to take action.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
For a relationship to be successful, you must be as good for your partner as he or she is for you. Do you have this kind of relationship with your partner or a close friend?

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What can you do to improve your health? Likewise, what can you do to improve your job or how you do your job? Today's New Moon is the perfect day to think about this.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It's important to play as well as work. Today's New Moon urges you to consider the balance you have between play and work in your life. Is it a healthy balance?

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

5				4				3
	4	6				1	9	
			6		3			
	7		1	5	2		4	
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			7		4			
	8	1				7	6	
2				1				8

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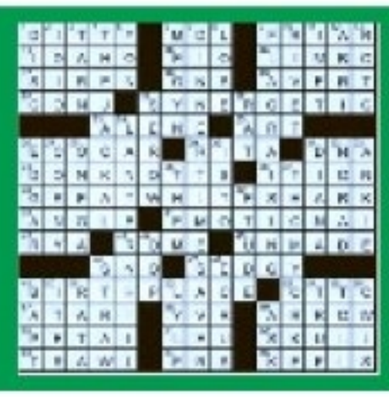

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7	8	3	6	1	4	2	5	9
6	9	1	5	3	2	7	8	4
2	5	4	9	8	7	6	3	1

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